German assistance and Saline Land Reclamation Project-II with assistance from European Economic Commission (EEC) are under implementation in the State. The details of foreign assistance received during last three years under these projects are as under:

(Rupees in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Foreign Assistance received during		
1.	Maharashtra Minor Irrigation Project	2000-01 0.00	2001-02 0.00	2002-03 1.74
2.	Saline Land Reclamation Project-II	0.00	5.19	0.00

(c) An amount of Rs. 4368.94 crore, Rs. 2597.26 crore and Rs. 1347.30 crore (tentative) has been spent on the irrigation projects of Maharashtra during the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 respectively.

(d) At present, three irrigation projects of Maharashtra, namely, Sangola Branch Canal, Talamba Irrigation Project and Lendi Irrigation Project are under various stages of appraisal in Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources.

(e) The approval of the project proposals depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with the observations of the Central Appraisal Agencies.

Irrigation projects for Chhattisgarh

2315. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of Chhattisgarh for various irrigation projects to be implemented in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government have given approval of the various irrigation projects as per the said proposals; and

(d) if so, the amount of funds approved by Government for these projects; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Two project proposals namely, Mongra irrigation project and Sutiapat Reservoir Project were received in Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal from the Government of Chhattisgarh. Both the projects have been found acceptable by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects in the Ministry of Water Resources.

Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects including modernisation of Canals are planned, investigated, funded, executed, operated and maintained by the State Governments themeselves as per their own priorities.

Water supply for agriculture

2316. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of the total water supply in our country is used for agriculture against 70 per cent in the world;

(b) whether considering the large amount of water used for irrigation as India's irrigated area is more than 20 per cent of the world area under irrigation, there is an urgent need for conservation and efficient use of these resources; and

(c) if so, what are Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) About 83% of utilizable water in the country is being used for irrigation at present against 69% in the world.

(b) and (c) Yes, there is an urgent need for conservation and efficient use of water resources. The National Water Policy adopted by the Government of India in 2002 stipulates that "efficiency of utilisation in all the diverse uses of water should be optimized and an awareness of water as a scarce resource should be fostered. Conservation consciousness should be promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives. The resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximizing retention, eliminating pollution and minimising